RISK ANALYSIS

Prospects and Opportunities

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Preface

This volume of the series *Advances in Risk Analysis* consists of papers presented at the 1988 Annual Meeting of the Society for Risk Analysis, which was held October 30 through November 2 at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, DC. The papers span the gamut of the increasing number of risk assessment topics addressed by the Society since it held its first annual meeting in June 1981, also in Washington DC. Organized to promote interdisciplinary analyses, the Society approaches risks from three broad perspectives: (1) the impact of various risks on the health of the world's populations and on the environment; (2) the social and political implications of specific risks, and (3) the management and reduction of risks through the development of a risk analysis methodology and corresponding data bases.

The papers included in this volume typify these three approaches and illustrate their interdependence. For example, both cancer and noncancer health risks are examined for a variety of situations that exist within society. The public's perception of risks and the correlation between that perception and the acceptance or nonacceptance of certain risks is also addressed. In addition, the progress to date on predicting and quantifying specific risks, including the risks associated with the construction and use of large engineered systems, is reported. Included among the papers are several dealing with recent current issues, such as the impact of California's Proposition 65, hazardous waste disposal, and chemical accidents.

As is usually the case in a compilation of this size, the cooperation of a number of individuals and organizations has made the publication of this volume possible. Particular thanks for paper reviews are extended to Kathleen Knox of the Environmental Protection Agency, to Lee Abramson of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and to Rob Coppock of the National Academy of Sciences. Appreciation is also expressed for the support received from the Division of Drug Research and Testing, Center of Drug Evaluation and Research of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, both during the planning of the 1988 SRA meeting and during the editing of the papers submitted for these proceedings

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Contents

Plenary: Twenty Year Retrospective on 1969 *Science* Paper of C. Starr, "Social Benefit vs. Technological Risk" 1
Chauncey Starr

Proposition 65: Risk Communication and Regulatory Policy 7
Brenda Nordenstam

Societal Acceptance of Controversial Facilities: The Role of Two Public Participation Strategies—Negotiation and Risk Communication 17
Amy K. Wolfe

Liability and the Economic Risks of Genetically Engineered Microbial Agents in Agriculture 25
Beverly Fleisher

A Method for Ranking the Severity of Foodborne Illnesses 37
Josephine Mauskopf and A. Scott Ross

A Graphical Display of Risk Information 45
Stephen L. Brown and Joseph V. Rodricks

Comparing Human and Animal Cancer Risk Models Using Multistage Theory: Exponential vs. Relative vs. Additive Risk 55
Robert N. Brown, Carol Brignoli Gable, Linda K. Tollefson, Janet A. Springer, and Ronald J. Lorentzen

Application of Ridge Regression and Principal Component Analysis to Specialty Glass Data for Encapsulation of Nuclear Waste 65
V. S. Arakali

The Use of Probabilistic Risk Assessment in Emergency Response Planning for Nuclear Power Plant Accidents 75
Robert L. Goble and Gordon R. Thompson

Risk Tracers: Surrogates for Assessing Health Risks 85
Sylvia A. Edgerton

Science Advisory Board's Judgments in the Assessment of the Risk of Environmental Contaminants 93
C. Richard Cothern

The Impact of Risk Management Legislation on Small Counties 103
Raymond F. Boykin

PM3006451717

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Contents

Plenary: Twenty Year Retrospective on 1969 *Science* Paper of C. Starr, "Social Benefit vs. Technological Risk" 1
Chauncey Starr

Proposition 65: Risk Communication and Regulatory Policy 7
Brenda Nordenstam

Societal Acceptance of Controversial Facilities: The Role of Two Public Participation Strategies—Negotiation and Risk Communication 17
Amy K. Wolfe

Liability and the Economic Risks of Genetically Engineered Microbial Agents in Agriculture 25
Beverly Fleisher

A Method for Ranking the Severity of Foodborne Illnesses 37
Josephine Mauskopf and A. Scott Ross

A Graphical Display of Risk Information 45
Stephen L. Brown and Joseph V. Rodricks

Comparing Human and Animal Cancer Risk Models Using Multistage Theory: Exponential vs. Relative vs. Additive Risk 55
Robert N. Brown, Carol Brignoli Gable, Linda K. Tollefson, Janet A. Springer, and Ronald J. Lorentzen

Application of Ridge Regression and Principal Component Analysis to Specialty Glass Data for Encapsulation of Nuclear Waste 65
V. S. Arakali

The Use of Probabilistic Risk Assessment in Emergency Response Planning for Nuclear Power Plant Accidents 75
Robert L. Goble and Gordon R. Thompson

Risk Tracers: Surrogates for Assessing Health Risks 85
Sylvia A. Edgerton

Science Advisory Board's Judgments in the Assessment of the Risk of Environmental Contaminants 93
C. Richard Cothern

The Impact of Risk Management Legislation on Small Counties 103
Raymond F. Boykin

PM3006451718

Source: https://www.industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/docs/xkxj0001

Community-Level Use of Risk Analysis: A Case Study 107
D. Amaral, R. Hetes, F. Lynn, and D. Austin

Diffusion of Emergency Warning: Comparing Empirical and Simulation Results 117
George O. Rogers and John H. Sorensen

A Comparison of Successful and Unsuccessful Public Involvement: A Practitioner's Viewpoint 135
James L. Creighton

Elicitation of Natural Language Representations of Uncertainty Using Computer Technology 143
Bruce Tonn, Richard Goeltz, and Cheryl Travis

Social Conflict Assessment in the Design of Risk Management Systems 153
Michael L. Poirier Elliott

A New Limit-Line Approach to Compare Large Scale Societal Accidents 167
Hector A. Munera and George Yadigaroglu

Beyond Risk Analysis: Aspects of the Theory of Individual Choice Under Risk 179
Michael D. Weiss

Risk Assessment and Risk Management: Their Separation Should Not Mean Divorce 187
Richard Wilson and William Clark

The Assessment of Incineration Risks (AIR) Model 197
D. B. Chambers, J. D. Phyper, B. Powers, M. A. Rawlings, and R. F. Willes

Organizational Factors in Reliability Models 213
M. Elisabeth Paté-Cornell

Risk-Cost Tradeoff Analysis of Oil vs. Coal Fuels for Power Generation 229
Lawrence B. Gratt and Gregory S. Kowalczyk

Analysis of Noncancer Health Risks Associated with Hazardous Air Pollutants 239
Timothy J. Mohin and David E. Guinnup

A Bayesian Approach to Import Sample Selection 249
Richard A. Williams, Jr. and Robert N. Brown

Safety Factors and Residual Cancer Risks 261
C. Brignoli Gable, C. Kopral, and C. Zervos

Risk Perception of Technologies: Observations from Mainland China 271
M. Peter Hoefer, Elayn Bernay, and S. Basheer Ahmed

Differences in Risks of Commodity Chemical Versus Specialty Chemical Production Facilities 275
Robert E. Unsworth, James Cummings-Saxton, and Frederick W. Talcott

Acceptable Risk in Regulation: The Impact of Recent Court Decisions on Public Policy for Risk Management 285
Chauncey Starr and Chris Whipple

PM3006451719

Source: https://www.industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/docs/xkxj0001

Risk Assessment of Mixtures: A Model Based on Mechanisms of Action and Interaction 293
M. A. Clevenger, R. M. Putzrath, S. L. Brown, M. E. Ginevan, C. T. DeRosa, and M. M. Mumtaz

Sensitive and Hypersusceptible Populations: Risk Assessment Considerations for Exposure to Single Chemicals or Chemical Mixtures 305
B. C. Seidman, S. L. Brown, C. T. DeRosa, and M. M. Mumtaz

Quantitative Cancer Dose-Response Modeling for All Ages 315
R. L. Sielken, Jr.

Critical Item Ranking for the Space Shuttle Main Engine 337
Kurt Reinhardt

Risk Assessment and Risk Management for an Experimental Nuclear Waste Processing Facility 347
Daniel A. Reny, D. P. Mackowiac, and R. M. Stallman

Cross-Entropy Estimation of Distributions Based on Scarce Data 357
Niels C. Lind and Vicente Solana

Human Error in the Transportation of Spent Nuclear Fuel 367
S. Tuler, R. E. Kasperson, and S. Ratick

Estimation of Synergy in Risk Analysis Using Orthogonality Principles, Ancillary Variables and Multivariate Analysis 379
Turkan Kumbaraci Gardenier

Risk Communication: Talking About Risk Reduction Instead of Acceptable Risk 387
Alfred Levinson

Development and Application of a Shower Risk Assessment Model 393
Jonathan Savrin and Richard Dime

The Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Products, Processes and Wastes from the U.S. to Third World Nations: A Prognosis 405
Allen L. White

Development of a Generic Knowledge-Based Risk Assessment System 417
Jane Silber, Serdar Uckun, Kazuhiko Kawamura, and Shigeru Ozaki

The Role of Salient Fates and Anxiety in Hazard Perception 425
Linda-Jo Schierow

Development of Robust Measures of Attitude Towards Risk 433
Beverly Fleisher

Platitudes and Comparisons: A Critique of Current (Wrong) Directions in Risk Communication 449
Timothy C. Earle and George Cvetkovich

Cancer Risk Prediction for Carbon Tetrachloride Using Pharmacokinetic and Cell-Kinetic Models 455
Kenneth T. Bogen

PM3006451720

Source: https://www.industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/docs/xkxj0001

A General Model for Quantitative Risk Comparisons 471
Hector A. Munera

Strength of Preference and Risky Utility: An Empirical Study of Hazardous Waste Facility Siting 483
Thomas H. Hatfield

Risk Aversion and Utility Function of Health: Experimental Determinations 493
Thomas Tam

New Technologies, New Hazards? A Systematic Approach 509
S. S. Raymond, D. Golding, S. K. Hammond, J. Himmelstein, R. E. Kasperson, M. H. Melville, F. Noonan, S. Ratick, and F. R. Tuler

Value-Impact Analysis of Low Temperature Overpressure Reduction Alternatives 521
T. V. Vo, B. G. Gore, A. J. Colburn, E. J. Eschbach, and E. Throm

Carcinogenic Risk of Benzene Derived from Animal and Human Data 535
Linda Tollefson, Carol B. Gable, Ronald J. Lorentzen, Robert N. Brown, and Janet A. Springer

Risk and Consent 547
Mary R. English

Risk Analysis Issues in Developing Countries 555
Masahisa Nakamura and Tomitaro Sueishi

Risk Assessment — Science or Fiction? 565
Wayne Tusa and David Lipsky

Reducing Uncertainty in Risk Assessment: Exposure Assessment 575
Susan Hunter Youngren and Robert G. Tardiff

The Role of Risk Analysis in Protecting Computer Hardware, Software and Information 589
Diane M. Gifford

Methodology for Calculating Reactor Vessel Fracture Probability Integrated Over Plant Lifetime 599
B. G. Gore, T. V. Vo, A. J. Colburn, and E. Throm

An Analysis of the Structure of Chemical Accidents in the U.S. for Local Emergency Response Planning 619
James Cummings-Saxton, Marc Benoff, Amy J. Barad, Samuel J. Ratick, and Frederick W. Talcott

Evaluation of a Risk-Bounding Approach for Setting Environmental Priorities 627
Thomas H. Walker and Ellen Tohn

Impact of Aging on Availability and Spares 641
R. W. Hockenbury, R. F. Kirchner, J. K. Rothert, R. J. Schmidt, and F. O. Cietek

Evaluation of Risk Assessment as Evidence for Decision Making 655
S. P. Proctor, G. Marchant, and M. S. Baram

PM3006451721

Source: https://www.industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/docs/xkxj0001

Risk Assessment of the Army's Chemical Stockpile Disposal Program 667
Willard Fraize, Robert Cutler, William Duff, John Perry, Brian Price, Thomas Kartachak, and Michael Stamatelatos

Municipal Solid Waste Management: Evaluating the Alternatives 687
Michael Marchlik and Steven Anderson

Toxic Air Pollutants and Noncancer Health Risks 697
Ila L. Cote, Larry T. Cupitt, and Beth M. Hassett

Quantitative Risk Assessment of Commercial Hazardous Waste Facilities: A TSDF Rating Method for Generators 707
Kevin D. Grant

Effects of Analytical Data Gathering and Handling Techniques on Calculated Risk Levels at Superfund Sites 723
Steven T. Cragg and Robert J. Caprara

Measurement Uncertainty in Epidemiological Studies of Two Cohorts Exhibiting Benzene-Induced Leukemia 731
Elizabeth T. Barfield, H. Gruenwald, Steven H. Lamm, Anthony Walters, Richard Wilson, and Daniel M. Byrd, III

Organ Specificity of Rodent Tumor Induction: A Test of Statistical and Graphical Methods by Examination of Tumor Induction from Ingestion of Selected Substances 741
Daniel M. Byrd III, Edmund A. C. Crouch, and Richard Wilson

Author Index 761

Subject Index 763

PM3006451722

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